

**RESOLUTION NO. 20091022 - 039**

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 the 81st State Legislature enacted HB 1937 to allow cities to designate districts in which municipal bond proceeds can be used to finance energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations by private property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the city's financing of private energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations would be done by means of a voluntary contract with the property owner and repaid through a long-term assessment on the owner's property tax bill; and

**WHEREAS**, such a program would enable homeowners and businesses to defray the upfront capital investment required to install energy efficiency improvements and on-site renewable energy systems, and would enable the loan, improvements, and energy savings associated with each individual property to convey with any sale of the property; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

- That the City Manager is directed to study and evaluate the means of implementing a program under HB 1937 to finance the installation of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy resources by property owners in the City of Austin, in a way that has no cost impact on the City government; and

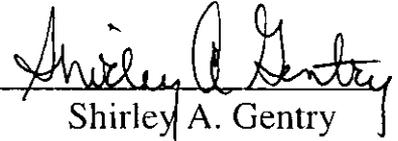
- That the City Manager coordinate such efforts with other appropriate governmental entities, such as the Travis County Tax Assessor and the Travis Central Appraisal District;
- That the City Manager's analysis and recommendations:
  - Evaluate the public benefit of such a program;
  - Determine the priority of any property liens imposed under the program;
  - Investigate creative financing mechanisms that leverage the city's tax-free bond issuing authority while taking all necessary measures to minimize risk to taxpayers;
  - Define the boundaries of any recommended assessment district;
  - Identify and resolve any legal issues that may arise;
  - Identify specific funding sources;
  - Detail how Austin Energy's existing solar and energy efficiency programs would integrate with the new loan program;
  - Determine how much funding should be made available for the program in total, and estimate the number of properties that could be served by such funding and the resulting amount of energy produced or conserved;
  - Determine whether schools and other units of government could qualify for the program
- That the City Manager work with the Mayor's office to convene representatives of the Tax Assessor's office, the Appraisal District, Austin Energy, other municipal governments within Travis County, service providers in the renewable and energy efficiency industries, mortgage

lenders, and other appropriate stakeholders to anticipate any possible difficulties with implementation;

- That the City Manager return with his recommendations to the Council within 90 days.

**ADOPTED:** October 22, 2009

**ATTEST:**



Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk